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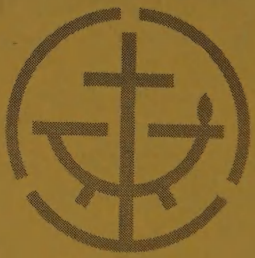

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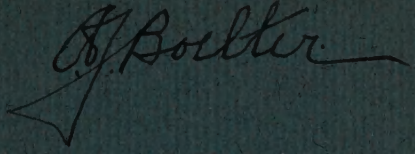

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Wayside Sowing

An illustrated story
of the work in
Mukojima, Tokyo

By
Miss Susan M. Bauernfeind

Published by
The Woman's Missionary Society
of The Evangelical Association

Preface

THE sole purpose of the author in the publication of this book is to make known and preserve the story of the manifestly providential beginnings of the work of the Evangelical Association in the Mukojima district of Tokyo. Some of the founding features of this particular enterprise are altogether unique in the annals of Christian Missions in Japan. This fact tends to make the story one of peculiar interest. First of all, the initial gift toward the building fund came from a dying Japanese lad from a non-Christian home. The unparalleled spontaneous interest and moral and financial support of the project by certain distinguished Japanese gentlemen of powerful influence, connected with the great spinning industry of the Empire, is of special moment. It should be kept

in mind that Mukojima was one of Miss Susan Bauernfeind's evangelistic outposts and it was the character and influence of her work that had attracted attention from the chief officers of the Spinning Company among whose employees she had been at work. Her appeal to the distinguished head of the Company for a church site, promptly brought forth assurances of his high appreciation of her noble ministry in behalf of the "girls of the mill", and the announcement that in response to her appeal for a church site, he had already instructed the manager, Mr. Fuji, to arrange the matter to her satisfaction, all of which the author regards as direct answer to prayer. The story is told in simple form without rhetorical embellishment and reveals, in part, the secret of the success of our workers in Japan.

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Mrs. Hiza Koshikawa, a most wonderful woman. She has been in the service of the church since Dr. Krecker's time, and is an excellent worker. It was through her direct efforts that the old priest was converted; it was she who comforted the little boy as he lay dying, and to whom he entrusted his savings to be used for a church in Mukojima. Although nearly sixty years old she is still unabated in her zeal for the Master, and many souls are constantly being brought to Jesus through her earnest work.

WAYSIDE SOWING

Introduction

LTHOUGH it is but a very short time since the first Spinning Mill was established in Japan, there is today a large number of these Mills to be found throughout the Empire, and among the numerous corporations, none has a better reputation than the Kanegafuchi Company.

This Company was established in 1887, and the first Mill was erected at Sumida Mura, Mukojima, Tokyo. It has grown so rapidly in wealth and power that it owns and controls not fewer than nineteen large Mills throughout Japan. The operatives, male and female, number 20,000, the majority of whom are women and girls.

That the Kanegafuchi Spinning Company is going to hold its position in the future is generally believed. It has the

reputation of providing the employees and operatives with every practical means of comfort and recreation, and that which will tend to promote their general welfare. As a consequence, hospitals, recreation halls, recreation grounds, and schools are found connected with The Kanegafuchi Company Mills. Also a pension fund for the employees is maintained so that when sickness overtakes a family, ending in the death of the father or son employed, a pension is granted the family for a given period, according to the number of years of service in the Mill.

Location

This particular Mill, in which we are especially interested, is located on the beautiful bank of the Sumida river, which runs through Mukojima, a suburb of Tokyo. Small steamboats go up and down the river during the day, by means of which the people go back and forth from

the suburb to the city. Besides this, there is a beautiful highway, fringed on both sides with the famous cherry trees which bloom during the first part of April, when thousands of pedestrians can be seen strolling about admiring the cherry flowers. Quite a large number of wealthy men own homes in this suburb, and lately the automobile, as a means of conveyance, can be seen daily. Then there is the old and safe way of traveling by Jinrikisha. The ride along the Sumida river is always a pleasure. Then, too, when meetings are held in the evening, there is no way of returning except by foot or Jinrikisha.

Employees

About 3500 women and girls are employed in the Mill, 2000 of whom live in the dormitories on the Mill premises provided by the Company, and the other 1500 live in the surrounding villages. These Mill dormitories are well built and in

One of the many dormitories, and flower garden in front of it.

good condition. A beautiful hospital is also found on the Mill grounds, and a large hall in which meetings of different kinds are held, and where the girls congregate for recreation. Besides these, there is the school building in which many of the girls attend school for two hours either in the morning or evening. The working hours are from six to six. Night work makes shifting at the end of each week necessary. From five to six hundred men are also employed as machinists, over-seers, and in other positions. The Company provides homes for these outside the factory grounds so that a village of about 6000 people connected with the Spinning Mill, is found in the immediate surroundings. The girls and women living in the dormitories come from all parts of Japan and represent almost as many homes as there are employees; for it is seldom that two of one home are found among them.

Evangelistic Efforts

IT is concerning the direct Evangelistic work that has been carried on in this large factory that I have been requested to write, so that the public may know more of the way in which the Master carries on His great work of Redemption, as well as the means which He employs to accomplish His purpose.

The Master's Training School

When coming to Japan, fifteen years ago, there was no definite form of work prescribed, which fact gave liberty to follow the Spirit's guidance. The general statement, "Work for women and children" was always remembered. During all these years, this thought has always been uppermost when opportunities for service presented themselves. Although every possible effort was made, while still in the homeland, to prepare

for service, there was a training necessary after reaching the field of labor which only the Master Himself could give. Filled with enthusiasm and anxious to work, one is obliged to sit still and study the language and customs of the people. While doing this, there was an occasional opportunity for telling the Story of the Cross. The English Bible class for young men, gave me an insight into the minds of the educated classes. The thought that I was hindered from helping because of the language barrier, often troubled me. Today, the truth that it was the best way by which to become really prepared for service, is fixed. The Master has great patience with His workers and knows what is needed to make each one fit to tell the Story of Salvation to others.

Although language study is by no means Bible study, when pursued with but one purpose in mind, viz., that of speaking directly to those one longs to

see saved, it has the tendency of making the heart humble and prayerful. One learns the lesson of Divine help even in this, and finds that nothing done earnestly is lost sight of by the Master.

The Waiting Time

The first year was chiefly spent in the study of both language and people, and doing as much as possible in Sunday School work, holding an occasional Woman's meeting, and teaching an English Bible class in a little church located in one of the poorer districts of the city. For seven years, it was to be the place the Master chose to train one of His Hand-maidens, and, regardless of the unpleasant experiences she remembers in connection with the work of those seven years, the blessed fact that souls were saved, and that the lessons so necessary in order to become fixed in one's work, were learned, are reward enough for all the misunderstandings, and all the sor-

Sunday school picnic before the church was built.

rows met during that time. The Sunday School became very flourishing and now and then one is made to rejoice by meeting men and women who never forgot the lessons then learned, and who are now serving the Master. Two of these young women are at present in a Bible school preparing for active work in His vineyard. If it were not for this evident result of work then done, one might despair; for when first arriving upon the field one is so anxious to speak, and by means of an interpreter it can be done, but that such efforts are mostly a failure, is fully understood later on. This failure is not due to the interpreter but to the fact that the speaker is a stranger to the thoughts and ideas of the people to whom he is speaking, hence cannot expect to benefit those who hear, except so far as God in His wisdom over-rules what is said. With the deepest desire to work quietly and unknown, it was the greatest trial to be compelled to have an inter-

preter with one all the time, but this too proved to be one of the necessary lessons to be learned.

Step by Step

While using every opportunity presented to make Christ known, the desire to go into the homes of the people and teach those who were unable to attend public meetings was not gratified until in His own good time He opened the way for such work. During the early part of the autumn of 1901, just one year after coming to Japan, special revival services were held in the little Chapel where it was my privilege to work. Large numbers of people attended and not a few were saved. Others gave their names and addresses, thereby signifying that they wished to study Christianity. Although not yet able to understand much of what was preached, each evening the little baby organ was played, and the singing was helped in the best possible

way. How one longed to speak to those who knelt at the altar and prayed for pardon! There was, however, nothing to do but to pray silently and earnestly that the Spirit might carry the message home to the hearts of those who sought Him. At last an open door for definite, direct work in the homes of the people presented itself. Among those who had given their names and addresses, were not a few family heads, and the women workers in the church were asked to visit the wives and mothers in these homes. In those days there were no street cars in this large city, and the distances to walk were very great, but the desire to teach the women who were unable to come to the public meetings was so strong that all obstacles were conquered, and miles were walked in order to find those who wished to learn of Christianity. Because of these visitations little groups of women were gathered from time to

time and special meetings were held whereby souls were saved. In one of the homes, a young man was found who was deeply interested in Christianity, and wished that his mother, an elderly lady, might also be taught. She was of a quiet disposition and did not care to hear about Christianity for herself, but begged that we teach a granddaughter who was living with her so that she might change for the better. The young woman was approached, and after a long conversation it was decided to have regular meetings which anyone might attend, and listen to the teaching of the Bible. Through this meeting, two young women were saved, and others learned to know although no visible results were achieved. This experience brought courage and strength to the workers and no opportunity for going into the homes and teaching those who never had the privilege of attending public meetings, was ever neglected.

Mr. Fuji, his aged mother of over eighty years, and his wife. On the verandah of Mr. Fuji's own pretty home.

The Macedonian Call

THIS was not a call to go into another country, nor did the call come from Christians, but quite the contrary. Mr. Fuji, the Manager of the Kanegafuchi Mill in Mukojima asked that Christian women workers hold meetings with the women who were overseers in the factory. Two of these meetings were held in the Manager's own pretty home, and were largely attended. This was in the autumn of 1902. It was the intention and the desire on the part of all concerned, to continue these meetings monthly, but the pest scare which continued for the greater part of the year, hindered the work. While it was impossible to hold meetings, daily prayer was made for the privilege of again holding similar services. Upon request, this time on the part of the workers, it was decided to have regular meetings in the factory assembly room for any who might

wish to attend. The first meeting was wonderful. The Japanese room consisting of 100 mats, was crowded to the utmost there being no less than nine hundred women and girls present. The feeling of one's utter helplessness to lead the lost human soul back to God was never so well understood as at that moment when standing before such a mass of faces unable to speak directly, and yet longing to tell the Story of Jesus. Many of them had never seen a foreign woman so they were noisy to the extreme, and not until the little organ was played could order be secured. After gaining attention, a brief address was made and some more Christian hymns were sung. It is wonderful what a power there seems to be in music, and although twelve years have passed since then, today Christian hymns still seem to have the greatest power over these people. For several years the meetings were carried on regularly and the women and girls who at-

tended learned to look forward to the services with joy. Many of the officers also became interested and frequently attended the meetings.

A Need realized and supplied

In trying to do what the Lord gave us to do, the conviction that the need for trained native women was imperative became greater and greater. While there were a few schools where such women were being so trained, it was almost impossible to get any of their workers to help in this important work. Hence the suggestion given by an older missionary lady, "Train your own workers", was harbored, thought about, prayed about, and finally submitted to the Woman's Missionary Society for action. Thus it came about that the Bible Woman's Training School was launched in 1904. At first, the number of students was very small indeed, but year by year the at-

tendance increased, and today it has the largest number of students of any similar school in Japan. Because of the help of these students, it became possible to undertake more practical work in the line of Sunday Schools, other factories, and systematic visitation in the homes.

An Encouragement

Just how much good had been accomplished in the monthly meetings in the factory was not known; for one meeting a month, and then no opportunity to do personal work, is after all a very slow way of leading people to a saving knowledge of Christ. One morning, while teaching in the Bible school, a special message was received which bore the seal of Mr. Fuji, the Manager of the factory. Upon opening and reading it was found to contain a request to conduct special meetings in his own home for the wives of the officers of the factory. With a prayerful and thankful

heart the invitation was accepted, and the first Christian meeting for women in Mukojima was organized. These meetings are still being held, but the definite results prayed for have not yet become evident although one of the women who has been a faithful attendant from the beginning has been baptized and received into the church, and another one gave a testimony at a recent meeting, saying that she had been greatly impressed with the lesson, and that she felt she must tell others how she felt about it. One of the hindrances was the lack of a specified place in which to hold the meetings. Thus the meetings could be held only when it was convenient for some one to open her home. The Japanese woman is naturally very much reserved and does not like to open her home for public meetings. This is particularly true of the non-Christian woman. When Christ's love permeates the heart, some of these ideas take their flight because of the de-

sire to make Him known to as many as possible. That this hindrance has now been removed, fills us with deep gratitude, and these meetings are held regularly once a month in the church.

Christ's Birth Commemorated

Gradually the women and girls of the factory who attended the monthly meetings learned to sing the songs very well and begged for new ones at each succeeding meeting. This was true especially of the girls who attended the school within the factory walls. Then it was suggested to have a Christmas entertainment so as to give them something that would impress upon their minds forever the fact of Christ's birth. It was surprising how gladly the officers assented to the plan suggested, and so the large dining hall was cleared, a temporary platform erected, two trees decorated, and a large motto,

Inside of the large hall in which many of the meetings are held, and where we always hold our Christmas entertainment. The picture shows a Memorial service when the Emperor died.

"In honor of Christ's Birthday" was hung between the two trees. Several recitations and dialogues were given by the school girls, and all seemed to enjoy the occasion. The Company furnished cakes and oranges, and all returned to their rooms happy. From that time until the present a similar entertainment has been held each year, and the interest is greatly increasing. That many have gained a proper conception because of this annual entertainment, is evident. Since the last Christmas entertainment, our meetings have been much more spiritual than prior to that time. Many of the girls seemed to realize their need, and we were led to hold special meetings so as to give them an opportunity to decide for Christ. Fourteen girls and women were converted, baptized and received into the church, evidently as a direct result of the Christmas entertainment which brought them face to face with the question of their own salvation.

An Open Door

WHILE we were rejoicing because of the privilege of making Christ known in this way, God set another open and effectual door before us. One of the officers who had attended our meetings regularly from the first, asked to have a Sunday School opened in his own house for some of the children in his immediate neighborhood. With a thankful heart this opportunity was seized, and for a number of years a very successful Sunday School was carried on in his house. This proved the beginning of the regular Evangelistic work in that suburb. Perhaps it should not be so designated, but out of it grew the present congregation in Mukojima. The Sunday School opened the doors of the different homes, and the mothers of the children were reached. The first year, a splendid Christmas entertainment was held on which occasion a large number of the

The first appointed Bible woman in Mukojima, Mrs. Kotobuki.

parents attended, and through this the acquaintance of influential people was made. After some years, the owner of the house objected to Christian services being carried on and we made search for another suitable house. Since the suburb is not very much inclined towards Christianity, it was a very difficult thing to find the right kind of place. It being in the spring of the year, when a class of workers graduated from the Bible Woman's Training School, it was decided to assign one of the graduates to Mukojima so that the Sunday School work might be carried on without worry on the part of the non-resident workers. Since the officers of the factory were anxious to have the Sunday School continued, it was chiefly through their efforts that a suitable house was finally secured in which regular services could be held. The young woman who was appointed to live there did excellent work. The Sunday School increased greatly in attendance, and the

other meetings were also well attended. On factory holidays, of which there are four every month, the officers brought large crowds of girls to have them study the Bible, and this young woman became a great help to them, not only as a Bible teacher, but as a companion to many of the girls who were away from home for the first time and felt homesick.

An Unexpected Request

Upon one occasion, when visiting Mr. Fuji, he asked whether there were not a graduate of the Bible school who would be willing to enter the factory to act as over-seer over three or four hundred girls, saying that he wished to have a Christian woman if possible because they were kind and considerate, and would be able to help the girls who are away from their homes. He also said that the Company would pay the salary, and if she proved satisfactory, they would be glad to give her a good salary. After consul-

tation, one of the graduates was sent over, and she was apparently happy for the opportunity, but what was our chagrin, when she came back after two days utterly refusing to return. That proper explanation had to be made is readily understood, but the fact that both the school and Christianity, on the whole, had been dishonored brought sorrow to all the faithful.

A New Trouble

For some time, the work in the preaching place went on very satisfactorily, and the influence of the Bible woman, living among the people, was of the best. One day, however, things changed, and what was our surprise to learn that quite a number of the girls employed in the factory decided to run away, and had come to the Bible woman and asked her to help them escape. She was overcome with grief, and succeeded in getting the girls to return to the factory. The reason for

these girls leaving without permission, was, that as a rule, they are put into the Mill by their parents, or other relatives, for a certain number of years, usually for a period of three years; and while some of them become skillful workers, and remain for many years, others are always dissatisfied and seek to escape without informing their parents. It is also true that sometimes the parents receive a certain sum of money, as a loan, and the daughters work to pay back this money; however, it should be said that they are not compelled to apply all their earnings on such debts, but the wages of two days of each month is kept back for this purpose. Again, it is true that all the girls can save money when employed in the factory. There is a banking system within the walls of the factory and when the girls or women keep money there for six months or a year the rate of interest is ten per cent. This fact has made it possible for many employees to save

View of the Sumida at Mukojima.

from five to six hundred Yen within a few years. The wages are not high, but their rooms are provided, and their daily food costs them just about five cents. It costs more, but the Company charges only a nominal sum for it. The meals are said to be much better than the average farmer in Japan enjoys. One young woman, who became a Christian several years ago has been in this Mill nine years, and always seems as happy as any one can be.

Although the Bible woman was able to make proper explanation to the factory officers about the girls who had come to her, she felt that she should not continue to work there because of the danger there was for the factory girls to lean upon her when they wished to leave, hence she was assigned to another place and an older woman was appointed in her stead. This Bible woman did excellent work with the factory girls, Sunday School and regular services, and a large number of people

were converted and brought into the church. On every holiday, she gathered large numbers of the factory girls into the preaching place, and, being an experienced Bible student she gave them the Word of God gladly and freely. It was at these meetings that many a young woman was won for Christ. Some of the testimonies and questions will never be forgotten. It was here also that a special effort was made to teach Christian songs so that their use would have the best effect upon those who sang. Once, when the song, "O Happy Day that fixed my choice" was sung, one of the girls forgot all her backwardness and cried out, "Oh, I am so happy." This started others, and we had a delightful time together. Gradually they began to understand something of the power of God, and when we had another Christmas entertainment in the factory it was opened with a baptismal service at which thirteen of these women and girls were bap-

tized and received into the church. This service, held in the presence of two thousand witnesses, was indeed most impressive, and became a greater testimony to the Christian church than was realized at the time.

A Drawback

While we rejoiced greatly because of the increase in the numbers who attended the meetings on the holidays, we found one great difficulty connected with this work. There were always some girls who could come any time of the day, while others could not leave the grounds until three o'clock in the afternoon, so it was decided to hold the regular meetings at three P. M. Private Bible lessons were given before that time. The hour for supper in the factory on holidays is 4:30, consequently the girls could not get back in time for these meals and it became necessary to prepare a lunch for those who attended the meetings. So

long as the number was small it was not much of a task, but as the attendance increased it became a great burden and a way of escape was prayerfully sought.

An Unexpected Blessing

Although entirely unaware of any trouble because of the foregoing meetings, we were told at one of our evening meetings in the factory, that they feared the holiday meetings would have to be discontinued, because there was great hatred among the girls. The reason for this hatred was that the girls who attended these religious meetings were always allowed to leave the grounds while others were not permitted to go out. The thought of giving up these meetings that had meant so much to the girls, was not a pleasant one, and in a flash a new thought occurred. If it was so much trouble to have the girls leave the place, why not allow meetings to be held right

View of the Sumida at Makurabashi.

in the factory, so that all who wished might attend without special permission. The officers seemed pleased at this suggestion, but said there was no room for such a meeting because the regular hall was in use for other purposes on the holidays. The school room, however, being free, permission to use it was asked. Finally the officers agreed to consult with the over-seers and return answer by the following week. Much prayer was made and not in vain; for the next week an affirmative answer was given. The hours for the meeting were fixed from one to three P. M. This victory put away with the question of supplying a lunch; from three to four times as many girls now attend the meetings as used to come to the preaching place, and it gives an opportunity to distribute a large number of tracts. From six to seven hundred tracts are distributed among the factory hands at every meeting. All literature is examined by the officers, and

it has been a great joy to know that all tracts we have been able to distribute have been approved. One of the most interesting features of these meetings is the personal work which is being done in connection with them. The first hour is always devoted to singing and a talk by one of the workers from the Bible Woman's Training School. Then the meeting is thrown open and all who wish to do so, are permitted to return to their rooms, and others are invited to remain for special Bible study, or consultation. The large number remaining for the second meeting is most encouraging, and many a poor soul has been helped into a better life because of a conversation with one of the workers. Even those who have become Christians find life among so many non-Christians most trying. It is pitiful to hear them give their testimonies saying that the over-seer tells them even though they go to the Jesus meetings they are not getting any better,

and how, sometimes they are tempted to believe they are so bad that nothing can ever make them better and remain away from the meetings for some time. The encouraging feature is the fact that they find they cannot get along without the blessings received at the meetings and nearly always come back again.

Some Definite Results

One young woman who had come to the factory because she wanted to be in Tokyo, found it anything but pleasant. She wrote home for money and for some one to come and get her. Before she received an answer a holiday came along and the usual meeting was held. Through one of the other girls, she heard of this meeting, and while entirely ignorant of Christianity, she came to hear the songs. The spirit of God worked upon her heart, and she decided then and there that she would not go home because she must

learn more about this religion and the songs by means of which she was so comforted.

Within a few days her mother arrived, prepared to take her home, but the daughter plead for permission to remain because she wanted to study Christianity. The mother returned home without her, and the young woman is very faithful in her attendance.

Another little girl said that she did not like the work very well but she did like the meetings, and was glad God brought her away from her home, for if she were at home she could not learn these beautiful songs and hear the good lessons of God and Jesus.

A third young woman was not free enough to tell about her experience, but, having come from a very hot-bed of Buddhism, kept all her joy and experience to herself. After some time she returned to her home, but did not dare speak of her experience. After some

Kindergarten children playing in the circle room.

months a Salvation Army worker, who was born in the same village, came home for a short holiday. He felt that he should open a meeting on the street and went from house to house to invite the people to attend. When he came to the home of this young woman, and informed her who he was she inquired whether the Salvation Army teaching was identical with Christianity. He was surprised to find that any one in that village should know anything about Christianity and asked her how she came to know. She told him that she attended meetings held in the factory where she worked, and that she became a Christian. Then they held a splendid meeting at which he explained the true meaning of the Christian religion. Some months afterwards, she returned to Tokyo and is once more working in the same factory where she never misses any of the meetings, and is doing splendid personal work among the other girls.

A New Idea

ONE day, during a conversation with Mr. Fuji about the different operations as carried on by the Company, the thought that a church in connection with the factory would be a splendid thing was suggested. He seemed pleased and said that he wished to see a church and a Kindergarten building to take care of the children of parents who were obliged to work all day long. That this would mean a great undertaking was at once realized, but another, a deeper thought was planted that day; that of winning the mothers and the fathers of these children for Christ. Meanwhile the regular meetings at the preaching place were carried on and the Sunday School increased steadily in numbers and interest. Among the Sunday School children were two whose grand-parents were Christians, and they appeared more earnest than

some of the other boys and girls. Every Sunday morning, rain or shine, these two little folks were present. The sister who was several years older than her brother always showed great love for him, and together they learned the Sunday School songs. The Sunday School lessons also seemed to leave a deep impression on their young hearts, and especially on that of the little boy. He soon wanted to attend the preaching services, and in every way seemed to have an inborn desire for God. Their own mother passed away, and a new mother came to look after their needs. The father, who at one time had been a Christian, had lost his faith, and had little use for the Christian religion; despite these facts, the little fellow held to his liking of religious meetings, and the grand-parents were made happy because of it.

On Furlough

ITH a deep interest in the work of this suburb, and a longing to see a proper church building established at some time, my "Homeward" journey was begun. After nearly nine years of joyful service among the Japanese people, it was not an easy matter to bid farewell to those one had learned to love, and whose spiritual welfare was impressed upon one's heart and mind. Nevertheless, believing a furlough to be a wise arrangement and feeling the need of rest, I returned, and the ten months in the "Homeland" became a great blessing. By looking at the work undertaken and carried on, from a distance, one can often understand some failures and disappointments better than while on the field. The outcome of such a vision of one's own labors is that one receives a new impetus to continue, and to mend the places where mistakes had been made. Meeting with the many

Cherry blossoms at Mukojima, Tokyo.

friends who take a deep interest in the work, and who are constantly praying for it and the workers, became a great encouragement, and the desire to return and give the best, and only the best for His service grew with every day.

The Angel of Death

It was while thus engaged in trying to bring the needs of the work in Japan before the people in such a way that a still greater interest might be taken that a letter came in which the sad news of the "Home-going" of the exceptionally bright Sunday School scholar in Mukojima was contained. During his illness of five or six months he was constantly concerned about the Sunday School, and for some time either his father or his mother carried him to the Sunday School on Sunday mornings. Finally he became too weak and was obliged to remain at home. It was during his last illness that he called for the Bible woman to talk to him about

Jesus, and sing the Sunday School songs for him. This she gladly did, and never alone; for his grand-parents, his parents, and often some other relatives were present, so that the meetings became very interesting. Some of his relatives were well to do, and brought him small gifts of money with which they asked the parents to buy something the child might want, but he did not want it used. He asked for a box and said he was going to save the money with which to build a church in Mukojima. Just before his death he again called the Bible woman and told her in the presence of his parents and grand-parents that she should use the money for a church. After the little body was laid to rest, the box was opened and the sum of $5.00 found in it. The grand-parents being members of the Methodist church desired that one half of the money be given to their church, and the other half was paid over for the new church in Mukojima.

A Coincidence

IT was about this time when the sisters of the Erie congregation heard of the needs of church buildings in Japan, and when God opened their hearts to undertake the erection of one such structure. It is true that good services can be held in native houses, but it is also true that the work is often greatly hindered for want of a church. People do not feel free to go to a place where a family lives because they cannot leave as readily as they do when going to a public building, and this fact keeps many good people from attending services held in private preaching places. Then again, if a pastor happens to live in the preaching place, and even though he does his very best to make it convenient for the people, there is always more or less hesitation on the part of the people to attend the meetings. There have been cases where the pastor

was not very well, and this fact not only kept new members from joining the church, but also kept the old members from attending the services. This being true, and an ordinary Chapel not costing over one thousand dollars, special stress was laid upon the need of more church buildings throughout Japan in order to do the best work. No special plea, however, of any kind was made.

It was thus that the Executive Board was informed of the good intention of the sisters at Erie, and the question as to where the Chapel should be built was raised. Since there are so many fields in need of church buildings it was not an easy thing to decide. The story of the little boy who left the first money with which to erect a church in Mukojima was told, and it was decided to give the Erie sisters the opportunity of erecting said church.

Difficulties

EXPERIENCE teaches that, no matter how good the intentions, and how necessary the undertaking may be, there are sure to be difficulties in the way. That the money for the building had been so cheerfully given was a source of great joy, but there were many other questions to settle before the erection of the church could be undertaken. Not the least of these was the proper building site. Mukojima is not inclined towards Christianity, and while it was difficult to find a house in which to hold meetings, it was doubly hard to find a suitable lot on which to build a church. Inquiries were made, and an occasional place offered itself, but when the statement was made that a church was to be built on it, the owner at once declined to sell.

An Interview

SINCE Mr. Fuji had mentioned the fact that he wished for both a church building and a Kindergarten in connection with the factory, we waited for a suitable time in which to again refer to this subject. He is a thorough business man. After much prayer for guidance a request was made for an interview. During the conversation the plan to erect a church was presented, and he at once suggested that we keep in mind the erection of a Kindergarten building as well. He also suggested that if the two buildings could be combined there was a possibility of finding a suitable lot in the vicinty of the factory, and offered to investigate the matter. Knowing him to be as true as his word nothing more was said at the time. Several months passed by without any information concerning his investigation, so another appointment was made

to meet him, at which time we were informed that it was the general opinion that an appropriate lot might be rented from the Company for the purpose of constructing both a church and a Kindergarten building. This news was received with great joy; for within the deepest recess of my heart was the hope that if the Company rented us a lot it would mean free of rent, but nothing of the kind was said.

A Temporary Defeat

Having gained this promise of a lot, it was with great joy that the report of the consultation was made, but what a disappointment to be told afterward that such an arrangement would hardly be satisfactory, and that the wiser thing to do would be to purchase a lot so as to be disconnected with the Company. Another interview was sought with Mr. Fuji and a request was made by us to purchase a lot. This, however, he said was an

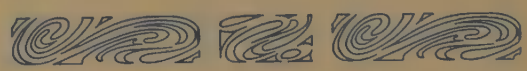
impossibility so far as the Company was concerned as it never sold any of its land. He promised to make investigation concerning some property near by, and thought if a large sum of money were paid we might be able to purchase a lot not too far removed from the factory.

An Agonizing Time

Meanwhile word came from the Board that a proper lot should be secured without delay and the building operations begun. Not caring to trouble Mr. Fuji any longer it was decided to ask two Japanese preachers to investigate the matter of purchasing a lot. Two of these pastors served, but neither of them had ever lived in the suburb, nor had they ever had anything whatever to do with the work in the factory, hence their interest was not so much in the employees of the factory as it was to secure a lot almost anywhere in the suburb in order to put up a church building. At last a

Mr. Fuji, General Manager and one of the Directors of the Kanegafuchi Boseki Kwaisha (Co.)

place was found, but it was not at all in the vicinity of the factory, and if purchased would have meant nothing to the majority of the employees. Upon closer investigation it was found that the lot in question was very expensive and that the owner was not willing to sell only a part, sufficient for our use, but required us to purchase the whole tract. Thereupon it was decided to drop the project. As is always the case at such times, those who had searched for the place, and had hoped to purchase it were greatly disappointed when told that it could not be considered. However, believing that the work was to be in a special sense for the people connected with the factory, the conviction that the buildings must also be in close proximity could not be dismissed.



A Definite Plan

SINCE it seemed impossible to get any lot suitable for the purpose of helping the employees of the Company, once again Mr. Fuji's help was solicited. When calling him up on the telephone and telling him that another interview concerning a lot was desired, he expressed his surprise by saying, "I thought you had long since purchased a lot for your buildings." Once more an appointment was made in order to get something definitely fixed. He at once assured us that the Company would gladly rent us a suitable site, but that it would not think of selling such a place. Then the question as to how large a site would be required for both church and Kindergarten building arose and he himself suggested that three hundred tsubo, or one fourth of an acre would be needed. He also suggested a very beautiful spot as the probable lot to be rented, provided we de-

cided to rent from the Company. Just before leaving he added that if the Company rented us a lot it would not expect any rent money, but that it would be free of expense. Another important matter was stated; the land in Mukojima is all very low, and whenever buildings are constructed a filling up of from six to eight feet must be done before buildings can be erected. This he said the Company would also do at its own expense. The lot pointed out to us had some old buildings on it, and these were to be removed, and the filling up done within three months.

A Change in Plans

In going to the suburb frequently we noticed that the promised lot was not being cleared which caused more or less doubt as to the outcome of the plan. Needless to say that earnest prayer was constantly made, and whenever oppor-

tunity was given mention was made of the hope of soon having proper buildings in which the better to carry on the work. Not until the three months were almost up did Mr. Fuji speak of the change of plans the Company had made concerning a new weaving mill which would make the promised lot unfit for the use to which it was to have been put. This statement brought a certain degree of unrest to my heart, although he assured me that the Company would give another equally suitable place instead of this one. He also said that if we wished, we might have the promised lot, but that it would be unpleasant to be so near a large mill, as the smoke would make it most unpleasant for Kindergarten work. It all being gratis there was nothing to do but to acquiesce. How little we know or realize God's over-ruling Providence in all that is done. If only people would always wait to know His will! While it

Miss Bauernfeind and Miss Ohashi. Miss Ohashi, who has some special work in the office, was baptized in January of 1914, and is a very devoted Christian. She begged to have her picture taken with Miss Bauernfeind because she wanted to have something to remind her of the day that she was received into the church.

seemed that our whole plans would fail at last, He was providing a far more convenient and beautiful spot for us. This delay was difficult to understand, but to trust Him at such times, doubting nothing, is our prerogative.

A Time of Expectation

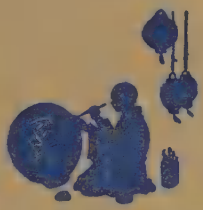
Several months again passed by when word was received that the Stockholders had definitely decided on the site to be rented for Church and Kindergarten purposes. That much earnest prayer was made during these waiting days is best known to those who had direct contact with the project. The lot decided upon was in an excellent location, but very low. The same promise, however, was again made that the Company would fill it up and prepare it properly for the erection of buildings. In this case it did not mean from six to eight feet of filling up, but at least twelve feet, and meant a

greater expense to the Company. Faith had again come to the rescue and a contract was made between the Kanegafuchi Spinning Company and the Evangelical Association for the use of said tract on which to erect a church and Kindergarten building free of rent.

Plans for the Buildings

Now that the site was settled, plans for the buildings were next to be considered. Here again Mr. Fuji manifested a deep interest, and, at his suggestion, no regular architect was employed, but a carpenter of exceptional reputation was asked to draw up a plan for the buildings required. This plan, as the picture shows, was well worked out, and since it is in use has always proved most satisfactory. This work being done gratis was deeply appreciated by all concerned.

Kindergarten children at play. View of part of the church and the Kindergarten building complete.



Erecting the Buildings

ECAUSE of the large amount of filling to be done, the beginning was very slow, but finally, in March, 1913, the foundations were begun. Strange as it may seem, some of the hardest work was done by the weaker sex, the women. Usually when there are piles to be driven from fifteen to twenty women are employed to drive them, and day after day one could see these women driving piles for the foundation of the present church and Kindergarten. When watching them the longing to see them saved often filled our hearts, and who knows but that they too shall be brought to a saving knowledge of Him at some time in some way. That the construction of any building is not an easy task is known to all who have ever had anything to do with such work; but, throughout the four months, the greatest harmony existed among the

workmen, Mr. Fuji, and those who had the oversight of the work.

God's Call to Service

It was during the first year's work of one of the graduates of the Bible Woman's Training School that a young woman, about eighteen years of age, was attracted to the preaching place by the singing of Christian hymns. This girl had been brought up in a Buddhist home and was well trained in that religion; but after hearing the Gospel sung she could not stay away from the place where the message of Salvation was proclaimed. She began to attend the public services in a country village and soon realized her lost condition and sought for forgiveness. She purchased a Bible and sought to know God's precious Truths, and before long was happily saved. She was of a very shy disposition, but well educated, and soon after her conversion felt the call to active service for the Master.

Miss Bauernfeind and Miss Miyamoto, the young woman who has charge of five hundred girls and women in the factory, and who, knowing the real source of consolation, is becoming a great blessing to hundreds of the girls.

This brought her to the Bible Woman's Training School in the Spring of 1908. She proved to be an excellent student and very much devoted to God. Sometimes we almost feared she bordered on fanaticism, but time has taught us that she was very sincere, and having been brought up in a strong Buddhist family often stumbled at what some Christians did. Although she had promised and expected to remain in school for the prescribed three years, yet, because of the conduct of a certain Japanese woman then connected with the school she decided to leave before her second year was finished.

That her leaving so suddenly brought great sorrow to those who were connected with the school can be easily understood, and every possible effort was put forth to have her return, but in vain. She still believed that God had called her into service, but did not see the way in which He was going to use her. She attended church services and once or

twice admitted that she made a mistake in leaving, but that she felt the Lord did not want her to return, but that He had some other work for her to do. For three full years she was employed as a maid in a very wealthy family, and for three years she prayed to know the Lord's will concerning her. Then light came, and she asked me to request work for her in the Mukojima factory. Having had a little experience in this respect, and fearing that a similar defeat would be realized were she to enter, immediate request for her was not made. Again and again she came to beg that the authorities be asked whether she could not assist in looking after the girls and women in the dormitories. She also promised that she would be willing to endure hardship because she felt it was the Lord's will concerning her. At last request for her was made. There was not the response which was expected, but after consultation and examination she

The Mukojima Church and Kindergarten Chapel, built by Erie, Pa., Woman's Missionary Society and Congregation. Kindergarten by Woman's Missionary Society. Built in 1913 *and dedicated July* 3, 1913.

was employed as one of the over-seers and has been following her God-given work for over two years with the greatest satisfaction. Five hundred girls and women are under her over-sight, and it is wonderful what a hallowed influence she exerts over these forgotten and lonely sisters. The regular meetings are more largely attended since she is living among the workers, although she is not permitted to show any partiality in any way. Girls and women who attend the meetings ask her to teach them how to pray, and also beg her to teach them the Gospel songs. The officers all respect her because she is a Christian, and do everything they can to make her work as pleasant as possible. While she has charge of five hundred girls and women she is not permitted to interfere with girls and women under the charge of some one else, hence she does not learn to know them all; but it has happened that some of the girls under non-Christ-

ian over-seers have asked permission to visit her and talk with her about Christianity. One of the most touching cases was that of a little girl who did not dare ask for permission to go to her room, but used the telephone to ask her whether she wouldn't teach her how to pray. The girl was then invited to come to her room and received the desired instruction. What a noble work! What an opportunity! Long hours, but all for Christ's sake, and not without results. Oh, for more such consecrated workers!!

Church Dedication

July 3rd, 1913, is a day long to be remembered. It being summer and the weather unusually hot, great fear was entertained that the dedication service would be a trying one; but it being a factory holiday and the desire to give as many as possible an opportunity to attend the services it was thought wisest to have the long-waited for meeting take

Mr. Yorogi, the pastor who has baptized all the girls in the factory who have become Christians, and for whom the people always wait when we have meetings in the church.

place then. The Lord favored us with a cloudy, cool day, or as some Japanese expressed it, "A perfect day." Since even a factory holiday means only half a day free the meeting was planned for the afternoon. Colonel Yamamuro of the Salvation Army was asked to give the address. The head officers and their wives attended, and between four and five hundred girls and women employed in the mill. The Rev. J. P. Hauch dedicated the church, and the meeting closed leaving the deepest gratitude in my heart for the wonderful guidance of the Master. The structure is the prettiest one our denomination has in Tokyo. It has two beautiful stained glass windows, the gift of Mr. Fuji. Above the entrance is a marble slab, a gift from the Carpenter, that bears the inscription "Mukojima Evangelical Church". The church proper seats about two hundred, but by opening the sliding doors that separate the church from the Kindergarten rooms

fully six hundred people can be accommodated. This is especially desirable because of the large attendance of girls and women when meetings are held on holidays. Usually, at special meetings, cake and tea are served to the invited guests, but, in the case of the Mukojima church dedication, it was decided to have Post Cards of the building and that a set be given to all in attendance. Five hundred sets, of three, were prepared and one set given to each attendant. This number was, however, insufficient, and later, an additional number was ordered and distributed largely among the dedication guests not formerly supplied.

Regular Services

Since the dedication was so late, and the summer holiday so near, it was thought best not to begin regular work until September. It was also hoped to begin the Kindergarten at that time, but different questions arose which made a

postponement of that work a necessity. As may be seen from the picture of the building, there is a Japanese department attached to the Kindergarten. The reason for this is that the teachers and Bible women who are connected with the work in Mukojima might have a home, and also, because the Kindergarten is not only used for a few hours each day, but there is a nursery department connected with it, which means that children of parents who work from six in the morning until six at night are brought there and left all day long. These little folks must naturally have a place to sleep so there is a large room downstairs which is used for this purpose. In the beginning of September, the regularly appointed Bible woman, a graduate of the Bible Woman's Training School, moved into the home, and began her regular work. Preaching services were also begun, and the Sunday School, formerly carried on in the preaching place, re-opened with a

large increase in the number of pupils. It being a new place and quite a distance from the former Sunday School room we did not expect so many children; but the attraction of the new building seemed to be enough to bring them from all parts of the suburb until the number ran up to almost two hundred boys and girls who come chiefly from non-Christian homes. The Kindergarten rooms are used for the Sunday School, thus keeping the church clean and in order for other services. The same pastor that serves the Koishikawa congregation also preaches in the Mukojima church. On every factory holiday he preaches in the evening and the attendance and interest have greatly increased. From the very beginning there were people who took a great interest in the building up of a church and congregation. Among the many employees of the factory not a few Christians are found, but there being no Christian service of any kind in the immediate

First graduates of the Mukojima Kindergarten. The gentleman is Mr. Fuji who was present and spoke to the children.

vicinity their faith had grown cold. One of these men attended the first service held after church dedication, and expressed his desire to join our church. His wife, who had been attending the meetings for women for some years, has lately been baptized and joined the church. Last year when summer came and the mosquitoes were so troublesome this man presented the church with one hundred fans made to order with the inscription, "Mukojima Evangelical Church." When winter came and the seats seemed bare and cold, his wife presented the church with a large number of small cushions, such as are used in all churches in Japan, and in every way these friends have made themselves useful to the church. There are many others scattered about, and it is the hope and prayer that these "sheep who have been without a shepherd" for so long a time, may now be brought back into the

fold. Doors are open everywhere, and in many cases people are waiting for an invitation to come to Christ.

Kindergarten Opening

At last the requirements to open the Kindergarten in accordance with Government rules and regulations were all fulfilled and the long desired day arrived. It proved to be a bright and cheery day, and large numbers of parents came with their children. One could not but feel sorry for many of the parents whose faces seemed to say, "We bring you our little ones, will you please take care of them, and teach them to be good children." Mr. Fuji, as well as some other officers, made addresses. The pastor also made a suitable address, and everybody seemed very happy. That the number of children who sought entrance was altogether larger than could be accommodated was evident at once, and plans had to be made as to how they

Miss Ichijo, the head teacher of the Kindergarten. A very spiritual girl, and one who is sure to leave her influence upon those who come in contact with her.

could be admitted; and, after all was done that could be done, a number had to be turned away. The nursery department, while a great task, is doing excellent work. It is pathetic to see parents bring their children before six o'clock in the morning to leave them to the tender care of the teachers. They speak of the peace of mind they have while at work because they know their children are well kept. Besides this department, there are two divisions of children; one for the higher officers' children, and one for the next in rank. The tuition also is different for each class, and strange to say, those who stay all day need pay the least because they belong to the poorest in the land. The children in the nursery department bring their noon lunch, but they need something between six and twelve, and again between twelve and six. The factory authorities have allowed a certain sum to be used in purchasing the necessary food between the

regular meals. They have also, up to the present, furnished electric light for both Kindergarten and church, and in many ways are showing their deep interest in the work. The largest number of children enrolled so far has been sixty-eight. Last year a class of twelve graduated and there is quite a number of full graduates this year.

Mothers' Meetings

One of the most interesting features of the Kindergarten is the meeting for mothers or parents. Under Miss Berner's able leadership, these meetings have become a very vital part of the work in Mukojima. Large numbers of mothers, and some fathers, gather at these meetings at which addresses on the care of the children as well as on the need of faith in the one and true God are given by competent speakers. In Japan the custom of deceiving little folks is pretty well fixed, and to tell a child a lie does

Second graduating class and a number of the other children of the Kindergarten.

not worry the mother in the least. The term "Lie" does not have the offensive sound it has in our own land. To say to another, "You lie" is an ordinary occurrence, and to tell a lie equally easy and ordinary. It is therefore of the greatest importance to teach the mothers to be honest with their children so as to make honest men and women of them.

These meetings for mothers also open up the homes of the people to the Bible woman and give her an opportunity to do the more direct and personal work which is so very necessary in order to win these souls for Christ. Having no knowledge whatever of the Bible, it takes them years to come to the place where they begin to realize that it is truly the Word of God. At first it is nothing more to them than one more of the many books which are filled with ethical teachings, and when it comes to that even books on Buddhism contain some splendid teachings on that subject;

but when the Spirit of God begins to work, and they are convicted of their sins, they also learn to value the Life-giving Word. Perhaps no other workers in the Mission field do more to disseminate the Gospel of Jesus Christ than these little Bible women. It is never too cold, never too far to call on some woman who may have shown a special interest in the meeting. They never complain of being tired, but are in danger of going beyond their strength in trying to win souls for Christ. It has often seemed to me that no Christian worker receives less credit for the work done than these faithful hand-maidens of the Lord.

A Retrospect

Thirteen years of work in Mukojima are in the past. During those years, not fewer than a thousand girls and women a year have been reached with the Gospel Story. A number of them have be-

This old man, a former Buddhist priest, was brought to Christ by his grand-child who attended Sunday school.

come converted and are active members of the church, and find great joy in serving the Master. Through the Sunday School and preaching services many a soul has been brought to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. One woman, the wife of an officer, was saved and has gone to heaven. An old man, who used to be a Buddhist priest, was saved, and although he could not speak because of an impediment of his tongue caused by some illness, he gave testimony by signs and by the glow on his face that he belonged to Christ. He could not walk, hence seldom attended the meetings, but came by Jinrikisha several times. On the day of his baptism, he could not express his thanks in words, but over and over he prostrated himself before Mr. Umbreit, thereby showing his joy and gratefulness. Many a time, when, in company with the Bible woman, I called at his little home, my own heart was

filled with great joy, and my faith was strengthened because of the unspeakable joy he manifested in his face. He read the Bible through again and again, and asked for church history so that he might study the growth of the church. This was gladly given him, and so his last years were made pleasant because he was so eager to learn all about Christ and His Kingdom. About six months before his death, he was stricken with illness and when the Bible woman visited him he told her by signs that he hoped they would give him a Christian funeral when he died.

The little boy, through whose gift the decision to build a church in Mukojima was made, is among the saints and angels watching over the work in Mukojima, and many others of whom record is being kept in heaven have been helped and are living good lives because of what He, the Sinner's Friend means to them.

The need of a church building has been supplied, and the field is truly ripe for the harvest.

Through the Kindergarten, the children are learning to pray, and to think of the one true God and Jesus His Son. One child would not partake of food at home without first praying because the teacher in Kindergarten had said that one should thank Jesus for what one received.

Through the regular church services the mothers and fathers are being taught of the only way of salvation, and when one deals with these people who have had nothing but pagan teaching for centuries one fully realizes how blinded their hearts are, and how Satan tries to keep them from turning unto the Lord. Truly, nothing but the power of God can ever rescue them from Satan's power!

The Outlook

A CHRISTIAN'S outlook is always bright; for with faith in Christ and His power it cannot be otherwise. That God has answered every prayer concerning the work in Mukojima, and given far more than was asked, gives reason to believe that He will do no less in the future. Hundreds of homes which have been shut to the Christian workers are open today, and while the Word of God is not yet being taught directly in these homes, the time is not far distant when requests will come for special Bible study. That a self-supporting congregation will be the final outcome of that work is the conviction of all the present workers. Already signs of progress are noticed. The attendance at the regular meetings is much larger than at first, and people who have had no special invitation to attend are among those who listen to the Word as preached. Signs of a

Miss Kubota, our present Bible woman in Mukojima, and one who is making her influence felt. Graduated from the Bible School two years ago and has been doing excellent work ever since.

hungering and thirsting after righteousness are in evidence, and gradually the path that leads to the House of God will be sought for by still larger numbers.

Our Portion

That this is God's Work cannot be doubted, and that He has chosen us to help in winning Mukojima for Christ is also evident. What a grand portion He has given us! How dare we neglect to do faithfully what He has entrusted to us! Fourteen years ago the prayer, "Mukojima for Christ", was wrought by the Holy Spirit in one heart, and that prayer shall continue to ascend to the Throne of God until that suburb, a little world in itself, shall have been won for Jesus Christ. He must become enthroned, and Satan and his devices dethroned. This result will, however, not be accomplished without a fierce struggle; for Satan is loath to give up the field where he has so long held sway. His forces

are strong, and he has many ways in which to deceive lost humanity. Victory is assured, but strong faith in our Leader, earnest prayer and a never-giving-up spirit is absolutely necessary to claim the promises of God.

Finally, when Satan and his angels shall have been conquered, and the Book of Life is opened many of the names of the mill-hands, and others living in Mukojima will be read, and the throng of the blood-washed will gather before the Throne to give thanks to Him to whom belongs all honor and all Glory.

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